May the Sun
shine brightly
on your Way

But keep this
for a
Rainy Day

BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS

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But keep this
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Rainy Day

BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS

from Fred Muehlhausen
he has quit canvasing
he is learning to be an
electrician. I am
about sh[illegible]
cards
you all. Yes Dot. I will
get your cards. L. S.

POST CARD

You may write your message on this side

15-'09, Hello
every body. Quite a
bit of snow yet, raining
like shak. My cold is quite
a bit better. Hope all are
well. Elijah, was down
to see me, they want
me to teach 3 months
I am going to write
some day. I got a card
from Aunt Mary Aunt
Jodie is sick, had been
for 8 days. I got a card

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This side for the address

PRES
15
P.M.
1909
REC

Mr. S. N. Smith
Roseburg
Oregon.

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BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS

Lillie Leone Smith to Lewis Nolan Smith – Reston, Oregon – 1908

Notes

Jeffrey Hunt
August 17, 2026

Postcard from Lillie Leone Smith to her brother Lewis Nolan Smith in Roseburg, Oregon, postmarked Reston, Oregon, on the 15th in 1908. The month in the cancellation is difficult to read. Lillie herself writes "15–'09", creating a one-year discrepancy; for archival dating, the postal cancellation is being given greater weight.

Lillie was one of four Smith sisters—Bertha, Lillie, Millie, and Dollie. Lillie, Millie, and Dollie were schoolteachers, and the surviving family postcards provide clues to their movements as they followed teaching positions in different Oregon communities. This card appears to place Lillie at Reston, where she mentions school directors and possible employment for a spring term.

Lillie also mentions "Aunt Mary," who had been ill for about eight days, and Fred Muhlhausen, who had stopped "canvassing" and was learning to become an electrician. She also appears to remark that there was still quite a bit of snow in the area.

Research Notes

"Aunt Mary" may be Mary Virginia Smith (1837–1908), Lillie's paternal aunt and sister of John Lewis Smith. Mary Virginia Smith died at Medical Lake, Washington, on May 15, 1908. If the Reston postmark is also May 15, the postcard may have been written on the day of Mary's death, possibly before the news had reached Lillie. This remains a strong but unconfirmed identification.

Other surviving records confirm that Lillie was teaching in the Reston area during this period, supporting the interpretation that her movements and references to school directors were connected with teaching assignments.

This postcard is part of the Wells Smith Steel Box Collection and is preserved as both family correspondence and a record of Lillie Leone Smith's movements, work, and family connections in early twentieth-century Douglas County.

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Roseburg
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